



*Renton
Municipal
Arts
Commission*

RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2011
4:30 pm

Renton City Hall
Conferencing Center (7th Floor)

Municipal Arts Commissioners Present: Patricia Pepper, Sarah Eldridge, Jerri Everett, Peter Hartley, Doug Kyes, Fred Lund, Britt McKenzie and Denise Zullig

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: Evelyn Reingold and Wesley Van Doren.

City Staff Present: Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community & Economic Development
Vincent Orduna, Cultural Arts Coordinator, Community Services
Vivienne Lietz, Administrative Secretary, Community & Economic Development
Elizabeth Stewart, Manager, Renton History Museum

CALL TO ORDER: Commission Chair Pepper called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Rainier Avenue Public Art Update: Guest Artist Benson Shaw. The selection panel reviewed applications and graded each application. The top three applicants were selected and interviews were held. Benson Shaw was selected by the panel. Pat Pepper passed around his application and visuals of his work. The selection panel presented his work to the Commission for approval to move ahead with this artist for the project. Jennifer Davis Hayes introduced him to the group. Benson Shaw gave a brief overview of his background and recent projects, some of which contain multiple art projects in the same location. He begins by looking at the site context or current context, researching the location and the area, history, geography and other information. He asks questions such as, "What is it about Renton that would be appealing?" Possibly something iconic that will let him move into design. The Arts Commission is looking for art that is solid and bold – a gateway "wow," a project that moves beyond a "gateway -- to a neighborhood." DOUG KYES MADE A MOTION THAT BENSON SHAW DESIGN A PUBLIC ART PROJECT FOR THE RAINIER AVENUE GATEWAY. BRITT MCKENZIE SECONDED. PAT PEPPER ASKED COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH A CONTRACT WITH BENSON SHAW FOR THE PROJECT. COMMISSIONERS CONCURED, MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: PAT PEPPER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER MINUTES, SECONDED BY BRITT MCKENZIE. COMMISSIONERS CONCURED, MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC ART PIECE OF THE MONTH: Doug Kyes passed around clues to the piece. Fred Lund asked if it was the panels at the Community Center, he was correct. The artwork is called Renton Changes by Kay Slusarenko. Fred Lund will present a public art piece in February.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Lund distributed mail highlighting local art events.

OLD BUSINESS:

Local Arts Agency: Next meeting is at Evergreen City ballet in Renton on January 27 from 9:30 am – 12 pm. There's a brief opportunity during this meeting for arts and culture groups to speak about what they do before the larger group.

Arts & Heritage Legislative Day in Olympia is scheduled for early February if commissioners are interested in attending. It's a very important year for 4Culture as a decision will be made for their revenue stream. Britt McKenzie suggested sharing this information with Downtown businesses as they have shown interest in supporting this effort.

ACTION ITEM LIST:

Communications:

Posters: Fred Lund gave an update on the revisions he'd made to the color, size and design of the posters. Commissioners reviewed the old and new versions. The committee preferred the original versions. A question was asked about the font and logo for RMAC and Britt McKenzie, along with the Communications committee, would like to hire an outside professional company to try to come up with new branding and a public art brochure. The Commission liked this idea and will pursue it.

Resource Development:

Denise Zullig wanted to meet directly after this meeting but three members are absent. Committees could be realigning soon to fit better with the master plan.

Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan: Next meeting is February and by that time they will have received input and have updated information.

Combat Paper: Peter Hartley has a call in to Charlie Rathburn at 4Culture and will update once he connects.

SIFF/Renton FilmFrenzy: Jerri Everett and Denise Zullig have agreed to represent the Arts Commission on these events. Thank you to them.

Art Show: Britt McKenzie travelled to Olympia with two artists to install local artists' work in State Representative Zack Hudgins' office.

Carco Artist's Exhibit starts next Saturday, January 10. Discussion ensued on the lack of attendance at these receptions and whether they should continue. The artist makes the decision to host the reception and is responsible for it. Commissioners are encouraged to attend these events and show their support.

Commission Budget: Copies of 2010 detailed budget report, 1% for Art and the proposed 2011 budget are in the packet. Decisions need to be made on the budget line items with/or without 4Culture funding which we'll find out about after February. Peter Hartley had researched the companies that received grants and compared the amount granted with the company's overall budget. He feels we should tie grants to the strategy in the Master Plan. Fred Lund noted it's important to look for excellence, accessibility and diversity when awarding grant money. The master plan is the priority of all the groups who helped bring it together, not just that of the Arts Commission. While one of the goals is to expand the diversity of offerings, Peter Hartley noted that local arts organizations are concerned about losing

their patrons if they show something a little more edgy. Grants could be tied to the goals of the master plan for applicants to qualify. It would be good for the existing arts groups to collaborate together to make existing programs successful and to possibly work together to create a new event. They could be tied to a strategic goal or the tactical goals in the master plan. Committees should look at the master plan and select goals from the master plan to incorporate into the grant application, please send their selections to Jennifer Davis Hayes by January 11th. Discussion ensued whether to continue the small grant awards and the scholarship for the training program. Pat Pepper would like to see the Artists Edge workshop happen in 2011. Committee projects would include Artists Forum, branding and the Arts brochure. Approximate costs were discussed and Sarah suggested asking Benson Shaw, the Rainier Avenue Project artist, to be the guest speaker at the forum which should help keep costs down. The Commission reviewed the line items and a proposed budget was set. PAT PEPPER MOTIONED THAT WE ACCEPT THE PROPOSED 2011 OPERATING BUDGET THAT INCLUDES 4CULTURE MONEY AND THAT WE ACCEPT THE PROPOSED 2011 OPERATING BUDGET WITHOUT RECEIVING 4CULTURE MONEY. SARAH ELDRIDGE SECONDED. COMMISSIONERS CONCURED, MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS: Jennifer Davis Hayes asked commissioners if they were available to be on the application review panel and on the interview panel for the selection of new commissioners. Pat Pepper and Sarah Eldridge offered to both review and sit on the interview panel, Britt McKenzie and Peter Hatley can review applications and Doug Kyes will serve on the interview panel. Jennifer will follow up with these volunteers with more information.

Adjournment: The January 4, 2010, meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 1, 2011, at 4:30 pm.


Patricia Pepper, Chair